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SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF HISTORICAL-GEOGRAPHICAL VIEWS ABOUT CENTRAL ASIA IN EUROPE

A.A.Erkuziev¹

¹Candidtate of History, docent., Namangan State University

ABSTRACT

Central Asia has played an important role in the political, economic and cultural relations of different nations and countries since ancient times as one of the centers of the world civilization. The Great Silk Road, which passed through this region, brought together the countries on the trade routes, the peoples living in them, and served to spread information about their traditions, lifestyles, location, historical events. These data, in turn, brought different peoples closer and served as the basis for the establishment of mutual economic and cultural relationships between them. One of the important scientific issues here is the study of the spread of information about the Central Asian region, where most of the Great Silk Road passed, to Western Europe through other countries.

Key words: Central Asia, Great Silk Road, Africa, Alexander III.

1. INTRODUCTION

Legendary stories played an important role in the formation of the first views on the nations of the East in Europe and the written texts based on them. As a result of the Europeans 'quest for paradise on Earth, large areas of Asia and Africa were discovered, which have long been reflected on historical maps as areas leading to paradise on Earth. In the XII century, there were reports among the Europeans that the paradise on Earth had been discovered, and that it had been built in the East by the legendary Prester John. According to the rumor in some parts of Asia, a powerful Christian emperor named St. John established the state of Karakhanids (1140–1213) under the title of "Gurkhan" [1]. According to typical medieval utopian ideas, people lived in this country wealthy and happily, and it was assumed that this country was located in the interior part of Asia, in India or Central Asia or Absinnia (Ethiopia) [2].

Pope Alexander III (1159–1181), the leader of the Christian world under constant threat from the Seljuk Turks, sent his physician to the East on September 27, 1177, to use this legendary and mysterious kingdom as a savior and to establish contact with St. John. This action could be estimated as the first attempt in Europe to study Asia, to gather information about its regions. Although Alexander III pursued the event for political purposes, it is significant in that he began to explore Asian countries, particularly, the Central Asian region.

In medieval England, the study of the countries of the East became one of the most important tasks in the XIII century. The arrival of Persian merchants on ships to the British shores in the early 1269 and the voyage of the English knight John Mandeville (13th century) to the East played an important role in the expansion of the ideas about the East here [3].

From the XIV century, the Europeans began to call the region from the Ural Mountains, which separate Europe and Asia, to the Pacific Ocean to the east, the land of Tartarie [4]. The population of the region is known as "Tatar Nogays", "Tatar Mongols", "Tatar Uzbeks" (Tartars Uzbeks) [5]. As soon as the invention of printing, the nations lived in the east of the Don River, whose origins went back to the Turkic-Mongol nomads were referred as "Tatars" in general in Russian and Western European literature [6]. Later, due to the expansion and clarification of the data about Central Asia, the terms "Chigatay Tatars" and "Tartarie Independence" (Independent Tatars) began to be widely used in Europe. The name "Chigatay Tatars" testifies to the fact that the Europeans became acquainted with the first information about Central Asia and the written texts based on them during the period when the region was part of the Chigatay nation. In Europeans' opinion, Mongol rule in Movarounnahr lasted until the XVI century. Because they also regarded the practically independent Timurids' state as the heir and follower of the Mongol state. For this reason, from the XVI century, with the emergence of independent states in Movarounnahr - the Bukhara and Khiva khanates, the term "independent Tatars" appeared in the literature published in Europe.

2. MAIN PART

The interest of Western Europe, which was on the threshold of the Renaissance, in trade relations with the countries of the East, required the clarification of the data available in Europe so far. It should be noted that until that time certain works had been created and sources had been collected that provide information on the history, location and economic situation of the countries of the East. However, because the information they contained was mythical and fabricated, there were many misconceptions in this series of sources. Such works include the collection Imago Mundi (World Image), compiled in 1410 by the French cosmographer Pierre d'Ayi. The influence of ancient views that dominated in Europe was noticeable in it, and it was noted that Europe and Asia were washed by the waters of one ocean. According to this view, there was no the American continent and the Atlantic Ocean was the only water basin between the Asian and European continents.

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In the Middle Ages, the merchant class was the number one social group that carried news and collected information about the countries of the world. The information collected by them, simple information, served as the only source of knowledge about the lives of peoples in distant lands. These data served as the basis of the science of geography and the structure of the world until the XVIII century [7]. However, due to the fact that the traders spoke about the shocking events in the description of their territory, their information was passed on by word of mouth and became legendary. Therefore, there was a need to show that the mythical stories about the countries of the East had no proof through written texts with solid and scientific data. In this regard, the Italian merchant F. B. Pegalotti's book "Trade Experiences", a clear description of European and Asian trade routes and a guide for traders in his day, played an important role.

Francesco Belducci Pegalotti, an employee of the famous "Bardi" [8] trade union in Florence, visited England, the Netherlands, Cyprus, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the 40s of the XIV century. His book "Trade Experiments" provided information about the origin, quality, methods of preparation of the commercial goods that played an important role in intercontinental trade, as well as the units of measurement used in many cities of Europe and the East, money in circulation, transportation costs and customs duties in detail [9].

The development of trade relations between the countries of the world necessitated the determination of the distances covered by traders, the location of major shopping centers. For this reason, in 1418, King Henry Marine of Portugal (1394–1460) established the world's first center for geographical research [10]. He was specialized in determining the location of geographic regions and cities. The distance determined between the countries and the shopping centers at the research center played an important role in the future travel of Europeans to different regions of the globe.

The end of the XV century was a period of advanced collection of ideas and data by Europeans about the Asian continent, including Central Asia. The Great Geographical Discoveries of this period contributed to this process, and the publication of Ptolemy's Geography in 1472 was an important factor [11]. Even in the XVII century, Europeans used it as a base source to create an image of any country.

As a result of the attempts to establish diplomatic relations with the state of Amir Temur, which liberated Europe from Ottoman oppression, there appeared clear information in the West about the political, economic and social situation in Central Asia. First of all, this information was transmitted to Europe through the diaries of the Spanish ambassador Rui Gonzalez de Pelayo Clavijo (1403–1404) and the Bavarian Hans Schiltberger (1394–1427), who was captured by the army of Amir Temur in the Battle of Ankara [12].

The political and economic processes that began in Europe in the late XV and early XVI centuries, and the intention to find new trade routes, did not bypass Central Asia, which was located in an important region leading to the East. In the XV century, Western European countries, which had limited diplomatic relations, began to take an interest in the country's economic potential. In the middle of the XVI century, the embassy of Anthony Jenkinson (1558–1560) was considered the first step in establishing diplomatic and trade relations. The permission of the ambassador to Central Asia by the decree of the ruler of the state of Moscow Ivan Grozniy was a bold initiative of the Russian state, as well as of Europe in establishing relations with Central Asia [13]. King Louis XIV of France (1643–1715) wrote "Two Letters to the Uzbek Kings" [14] to restore direct relations with Central Asia during the reign of Amir Temur. However, these letters were not sent to the rulers of Central Asia for unknown reasons [15].

As a result of the Great Geographical Discoveries in the XV and XVI centuries, more accurate information about the Central Asian khanates was obtained in the course of the carrying out of the plans European countries to travel to India and China in various ways. As Western Europeans discovered for themselves the state of Moscow as a political and economic partner [16], the opportunity to supplement and acquire new information about Central Asia known in Europe increased even more. Because a significant part of the trade route from Europe directly to India and China passed through the territory of the state of Moscow. This situation required the collection of new data on the state of Moscow and the countries to its east.

After the Portuguese discovered India (1498) and settled firmly in it, they began to look for areas in the north of the country and ways to go to China through them. As a result of the long-standing trade and economic relations between India and the Central Asian countries, the trade routes connecting the two regions were known to the local population. The Europeans who took part in the trade trips of Indian traders to China and Central Asia gathered information about trade routes, the region's natural, geographical, and economic opportunities. As a result, the southern network of roads from India to Central Asia and China was effectively used by the Portuguese in the XVI century and by the British in the next centuries. Portuguese Jesuit Benedict Goes was the first European to use this path [17]. His trip to China began in Lahore with a trade caravan and passed through Kabul, Badakhshan and Kashgar. During the trip, he collected information about the cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Jalal-Abad, Almalyk (Almalek) [18] and noted them in his travel diary.

The results of great geographical discoveries expanded the opportunities of European countries in the field of trade and industry. The XV and XVI centuries necessitated the discovery of regions that supplied raw materials for the prospects of economic production in European society. As a result, economic data on countries located by sea and land trade routes were collected. It was a characteristic feature of this period that the satisfaction of European trade and industrial needs at the expense of Eastern goods became the number one task. The Central Asian region, where different trade routes intersect, was actively involved in this process due to its importance. This led to the consolidation of data on Central Asia collected before the Great

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Geographical Discoveries, and work began to create a clear description of the region.

From the second half of the XVI century, as a result of the conquest of the Kazan and Astrakhan khanates by Ivan IV Grozniy, it became possible for the Moscow state to collect information about the regions, countries and peoples connected to the lower Volga. However, at the same time, the Europeans had some advantage over the Russians in this matter. Because the Europeans used the lower reaches of the Volga River in the XII-XIV centuries as a means of transit in trade with the countries of the East. Moreover, the works of Arab geographers, which provide excellent information about these regions, were translated into almost all European languages during this period.

A Dutchman who came to Russia for business in 1664–1665 N. K. Witsen was able to gather valuable information about Central Asian. He included a large area, from the banks of the Kama and Volga rivers and the Caspian Sea to the shores of the Pacific Ocean into the territory of "Tartarie" [19]. During his tenure as Burgomaster of Amsterdam (1692–1714), N.K. Witsen conducted extensive research on the history and economic potential of Central Asia. As a result, his work "Northern and Eastern Tartarie" and a map of Central Asia as an appendix to it came into being. There was a large chapter called "Uzbekia" in the book, which provided extensive information about the geographical location and historical monuments of Central Asia [20]. In the author's map of Central Asia the eastern shores of the Caspian Sea and the Khiva Khanate were depicted [21].

With the development of world trade in the world's oceans, the missionary activity of the representatives of the Catholic Church in Asia also intensified. The Catholic Jesuits d'Arohoy, Espine, and Gallerstein Qin (1644–1911), who were active in China, conducted research in the country to create a map of the empire on behalf of Emperor Jiang-Luyan (1736–1796). The research was also carried out in the Dzungarian Khanate and eastern Fergana regions, which were occupied by China in the XVIII century, with the help of Chinese land surveyors [22]. The information collected in the Fergana Valley and around Issyk-Kul was published in Paris in 1776 under the title "Collection of works of Beijing missionaries on the history, science and art of China." On the basis of the information in this work, the French cartographer d'Anville created a map of Central Asia in 1837 [23].

In the XVIII century, Russia became one of the most prosperous countries in Europe in terms of science and culture, and the scientific study of Asian countries led some European adventurers and science-hungry people to immigrate to Russia. In addition to gaining experience in science centers in Russia, they took an active part in various expeditions organized by the Russian government to study Asia. During this period Russia's main attention was on Central Asia and Siberia, the information they collected about these regions, which remained unknown to the Europeans, was quickly translated into European languages.

The dairy "Journey from Orenburg to Bukhara" by .Ye.K. Meyendorf, who took an active part in the F. Negri's mission to Bukhara organized by the Russian government in 1820–1822, was published in 1822 in Berlin by E. by Eversman in German. This edition was one of the best works in Europe on the Emirate of Bukhara and served to fill the imagiantions of the Westerners about Bukhara.

It should be noted that as a result of such missions and expeditions, various valuable manuscripts on the history of Central Asia were taken to Europe. They served as an important source of information about Central Asia in Europe for a long time. The publication of the work "History of Muqimkhani" written by Muhammad Yusuf Munshi in 1838 by the orientalist O. I. Senkovsky in French became famous in Europe and "served for the Europeans as the only source on the history of the Bukhara Khanate for a long time" [24]. This work [25], which was presented to F. Negri, who was an appointed Russian ambassador, by the Emir Haydar of Bukhara (1800–1826), had a wide range of influence in Europe at that time due to the fact that it was first translated into French, so that the various categories of information collected about the East, especially Central Asia, spread rapidly among the population.

3. CONCLUSION

It should be noted that the period of the Mongol invasion of Europe can be considered as a prelude to the study of the nations of Asia on the ancient continent. These efforts, which were initially aimed at exploring the mystery of heaven on Earth and the power of the Mongols, later led to the development of transcontinental trade through the Great Silk Road and the emergence of clear science-based data on Central Asia in Europe due to the intention to explore new routes to China and India. As a result of the growing importance of Central Asia for European countries in transit trade with the East, it became one of the main objects of research by Europeans. With the proliferation of literature compiling solid information about the countries of the East, Central Asia became an important component of this process.

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